



## MACEP ADVOCACY REPORT 2021-22

### JUNE 2021

- i** Met with American Heart Association in support of T-CPR Legislation
- i** Submitted written testimony for the Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery Public Hearing. Included MACEP’s data collection efforts, participation to countless behavioral health committees, commissions and taskforces, long standing commitment to full access to medical care for all behavioral health patients, particularly the most vulnerable dual diagnosis and pediatric populations. **To that end, MACEP supports the following bills that would help achieve that goal in Massachusetts:**
  - **H.2094, An Act to ensure full system accountability for mental health parity (Golden)**
  - **H.2095, An Act relative to requiring insurance providers cover a minimum of 30 days for in-patient substance abuse treatment (Golden)**
  - **H.2109, An Act to further define medical necessity determinations (Kushmerek)**
  - **H.2113/S.1295, An Act to Remove Administrative Barriers to Behavioral Health Services (Malia, Keenan)**
  - **S.1276, An Act addressing barriers to care for mental health (Cyr)**
  - **S.1288, An Act removing preauthorization requirements for mental health acute treatment (Friedman)**
- i** MACEP participated in the HPC, CHIA and DOI listening session to discuss recommendations regarding the establishment of an out-of-network commercial payment rate for both emergency health care services and nonemergency healthcare services in the commonwealth.

### JULY 2021

- i** MACEP submitted written testimony for the Financial Services Committee to support the bill that would codify the federal *No Surprises Act* into Massachusetts state statute. Support was consistent with testimony given at June EOHHS/HPC Listening Session.
- i** Zoom meet & greet with Rep. Sally Kearns, MACEP Government Affairs Committee Chair Dr. Joe Kopp and MACEP Lobbyist Ronna Wallace regarding the lack of parity and increased ED Boarding times for BH patients.
- i** MACEP gave testimony on BH parity to the 7.21.21 Financial Services Committee Hearing.
- i** Released new BH Point in Time data collection summary and sent press release.

### AUGUST 2021

- i** Sent a letter to the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security chairs Sen. Timilty and Rep. Gonzalez in support of **H.2506/S.1603 to prevent workplace violence.**

## SEPTEMBER 2021

**i** MHA's Leigh Youmans & Teri Olafunmiloye attended MACEP's Monthly meeting to give an overview of the BH boarding data they have been collecting.

**i** Met with supporters of **H.237/S.1491 An Act Relative to timely care & saving lives**. MACEP board agrees to support this bill moving forward.

Sent a letter to HPC, CHIA and DOI in response to their report to the MA Legislative Out of Network rate recommendations.

MACEP signed on to a letter supporting Safe Consumption Sites (SCS). The letter serves as MACEP's testimony on H.2088 and S.1272 which would legalize a pilot program of these sites with annual reporting, amend select antiquated state-controlled substance laws, and begin the process of clarifying other legal and regulatory barriers such as professional licensure.

## OCTOBER 2021

**i** Representative Jon Santiago, MD attended MACEP's November monthly meeting for a discussion about Med Surge and BH boarding.

**i** MACEP signed on to a letter to Boston and MA leaders regarding the proposal for involuntary treatment for those at the Mass and Cass area struggling with substance use disorders.

**i** MACEP sent a letter of support to the Joint Committee on children, families and persons with disabilities in support of **S.107 An Act Relative to Child ED Boarding**.

## NOVEMBER 2021

**i** Monitor House Speaker's bill proposed. Areas of the bill related to emergency medicine and EDs include:

- Proposed assessment at an expedited rate will put a burden on the Eds rather than the hospital.
- Some of the options proposed are good but will not work in small community hospitals.

**i** On November 15<sup>th</sup> EMS Committee Chair Dr. Joe Sabato, Jr. submitted oral testimony at the hearing in support of the T-CPR and Stroke bills.

## DECEMBER 2021

**i** MACEP President Dr. Kathleen Kerrigan, Government Affairs Committee Chair Dr. Joe Kopp, MACEP board member Dr. Joe Tennyson, and MACEP Lobbyist Ronna Wilace met with Representative Adrian Madaro, chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health Substance Use and Recovery.

**i** MACEP Anti-Boarding Workgroup met with Rep. Jon Santiago, MD to discuss possible BH boarding bill.

## JANUARY 2022

- i** Written testimony in support of **H.203 An Act relative to transparency in behavioral health boarding.**
- i** Sent letter to the Joint Committee of Public Safety supporting bills **H.2506/S.1603 An Act Requiring Health Care Facilities to Develop and Implement Programs to Prevent Workplace violence.**
- i** Released new BH **Point in Time data collection summary**

## FEBRUARY 2022

- i** Signed on to Massachusetts Medical Society letter that acknowledged the efforts of public health officials over the last 2 years.
- i** Sent letter to House leadership thanking them for putting forth **S.2622 An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2022 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects.** MACEP is grateful for Section 9 of S.2622, relative to liability protections for health care providers.

## MARCH 2022

- i** Governor Baker released a comprehensive Healthcare bill. Among the provisions is a default rate for Out of Network services set at the median in network rate. It states that the Out of Network rate is consistent with the federal No Surprises Act, it has no independent dispute resolution. MACEP sent a letter expressing concern for several items in the proposed bill.

## APRIL 2022

- i** Presented testimony opposed to **S.2774 An Act investing in the future of our health** in regard to out of Network provisions in the Governor's bill.

## MAY 2022

- i** Participated in a call with ACEP President Dr. Gillian Schmitz, Executive Director Sue Sedory, and CT & RI chapter leadership to discuss New England region emergency medicine issues.
- i** Virtual meetings with House Speaker Mariano's office and Sen Cindy Friedman to discuss concerns about the Governor's bill S.2274.